

cross-servicing agreements with countries that are not part of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization or its subsidiary bodies; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2991. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a plan for the redesign of the military pharmacy system; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2992. A communication from the General Counsel, Department of Defense, transmitting a draft of proposed legislation relative to various management concerns regarding security cooperation programs; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2993. A communication from the Under Secretary, Export Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of the imposition on Serbia of certain foreign policy-based export controls; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2994. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Export Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Exports To Serbia" (RIN0694-AB69), received May 4, 1999; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2995. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report of the Exchange Stabilization Fund for fiscal year 1998; to the Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

PO-111. A resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Nebraska; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 69

Whereas, until 1993, the federal Natural Gas Policy Act of 1978 established the maximum lawful price that a natural gas producer could charge its pipeline customers for natural gas, providing under section 110 of the act that the producer could adjust the maximum price upward in order to recover from pipeline customers any state severance tax payments made by the producer; and

Whereas, in 1988, in the case of *Colorado Interstate Gas Co. v. the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission*, 850 F. 2d 769, the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit ruled that the ad valorem tax levied by the State of Kansas was not a severance tax within the meaning of section 110 of the Natural Gas Policy Act and ordered natural gas producers to refund that portion of the payments received from the pipelines attributable to the cost of the Kansas ad valorem taxes paid plus interest; and

Whereas, upon remand of the matter to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, the commission ordered the refunds to be made on that portion of all purchases which had included Kansas ad valorem taxes which were charged after June 28, 1988, the date of the Appeals Court ruling in the *Colorado Interstate Gas Co.* case; and

Whereas, in 1996, in the case of *Public Service Company of Colorado v. the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission*, 91 F. 3d 1478, the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia overruled the commission, holding that the refunds should commence from October 1983, when notice was filed in the Federal Register of the petition before

the commission challenging the propriety of including the Kansas ad valorem taxes in the price charged for natural gas produced in Kansas; and

Whereas, as of November 1997, the consumers of natural gas in twenty-three states were entitled, pursuant to this ruling and the subsequent order of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, to refunds and accrued interest from natural gas producers for the period of October 1983 through June 1988, amounting to more than \$334,840,000, with Nebraska consumers to receive approximately \$34,360,000 (approximately ten percent of the total); and

Whereas, of those sums, over 60 percent of the total is accrued interest as of that date with additional interest being compounded quarterly on unpaid balances and on those sums not placed in escrow accounts pursuant to commission order; and

Whereas, the United States Senate and the United States House of Representatives in their individual versions of the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 1999 (S. 544 and H.R. 1141) have provisions, added by amendment, which would amend the Natural Gas Policy Act of 1978 to prohibit the commission or any court from ordering the payment of any interest or penalties with respect to ordered refunds of rates or charges made, demanded, or received for reimbursement of State ad valorem taxes in connection with the sale of natural gas before 1989; and

Whereas, both acts were adopted by their respective houses of the Congress on March 25 of this year, immediately prior to their Easter adjournment and are pending consideration by a Joint Appropriations Conference Committee; and

Whereas, legislation for the same purpose (S. 626 in the Senate and H.R. 1117 in the House of Representatives) is currently pending; and

Whereas, the sole result of the final adoption of these amendments or these bills will be to mitigate or reduce the liability of natural gas producers for charges wrongfully imposed on consumers in the period of 1983 to 1988 by denying consumers interest on the amount of those charges and relieving the producers of any liability for future penalties flowing from the failure to make court-ordered payments in the prescribed manner; and

Whereas, the lost refunds to Nebraska natural gas consumers will amount to more than 10 percent of the total reduction, representing the fourth largest state loss of the twenty-four states receiving court-ordered refunds; and

Whereas, Nebraska has been urged to join with other states in petitioning Congress to reconsider the adoption of these ill-advised and possibly unconstitutional provisions and avoid future litigation at the expense of all parties involved.

Now, Therefore, be it Resolved by the Members of the Ninety-Sixth Legislature of Nebraska, First Session:

1. That the Legislature hereby petitions the Congress of the United States to oppose the enactment of S. 626 and H.R. 1117 or any version thereof which would have the effect of waiving interest or penalties of any kind with regard to natural gas producer refunds of state ad valorem taxes charged to consumers on the sale of natural gas before 1989.

2. That the Legislature hereby petitions the Congress of the United States to reconsider its actions with regard to S. 544 and H.R. 1141 in the adoption of the amendments which would have the effect of waiving inter-

est or penalties of any kind with regard to natural gas producer refunds of state ad valorem taxes charged to consumers on the sale of natural gas before 1989 and urges that the ultimate version of the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 1999 as reported by the conference committee and adopted by the Congress not include any provision having this effect.

3. That the Legislature urges the members of the Nebraska House and Senate delegations to vote against and to take such actions as necessary to prevent the passage of any amendments or legislation which would have the effect of waiving interest or penalties of any kind with regard to natural gas producer refunds of state ad valorem taxes charged to consumers on the sale of natural gas before 1989.

4. That the Clerk of the Legislature transmit copies of this resolution to each member of the Nebraska Congressional delegation and that copies be transmitted to the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives and the President of the United States Senate with the request that it be officially entered into the Congressional Record as a memorial to the Congress of the United States.

POM-112. A resolution adopted by the Council of the City of Cincinnati, Ohio relative to the Social Security Act; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. CHAFEE, from the Committee on Environment and Public Works, without amendment:

S. 559. A bill to designate the Federal building located at 33 East 8th Street in Austin, Texas, as the "J.J. 'Jake' Pickle Federal Building."

S. 858. A bill to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 18 Greenville Street in Newnan, Georgia, as the "Lewis R. Morgan Federal Building and United States Courthouse."

EXECUTIVE REPORT OF A COMMITTEE

The following executive report of a committee was submitted:

By Mr. CHAFEE, from the Committee on Environment and Public Works:

George T. Frampton, Jr., of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the Council on Environmental Quality.

(The above nomination was reported with the recommendation that he be confirmed, subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second time by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. SCHUMER (for himself, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. BRYAN, and Mr. JOHN-SON):